

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 19617 011825Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02

PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-13 CPR-01 /115 W

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R 011654Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1527

TREASURY DEPT WASHDC

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSULNCILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

UNCLAS ROME 19617

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IT

SUBJECT: ANDREOTTI INTERVIEW PRIOR TO US VISIT

TREASURY FOR WIDMAN; PASS FRB

1. EXCERPTS OF PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI INTERVIEW WHICH WILL APPEAR IN NEXT ISSUE OF /PANORAMA/ WERE FEATURED IN PRESS DECEMBER 1. /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/ STATES THAT ANDREOTTI HOPES HIS THREE-DAY WASHINGTON VISIT WILL CONSIST MAINLY, IF NOT ENTIRELY, OF AN EXAMINATION OF MONETARY PROBLEMS. FOLLOWING GIVES GIST OF PANORAMA QUESTIONS AND ANDREOTTI'S ANSWERS REGARDING HIS DECEMBER 6-7 OFFICIAL TRIP TO THE US.

2. IN EXPLAINING MOTIVES FOR HIS IMMINENT VISIT, ANDREOTTI STATED THAT IN ACCEPTING INVITATION HE HAD ESPECIALLY HOPED TO BE ABLE TO HAVE USEFUL CONTACTS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR ITALY'S ECONOMIC STABILIZATION PROGRAM.

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PAGE 02 ROME 19617 011825Z

HE THOUGHT THAT HE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OCCASION

TO DO SO, WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, CONGRESSMEN AND ECONOMIC EXPERTS. REGARDING THE RESULTS THAT HE EXPECTS FROM THIS TRIP, ANDEOTTI AFFIRMED THAT HE HOPED "TO GET A GUARANTEE THAT, IF WE SHOULD FIND OURSELVES CONFRONTED BY A SPECULATIVE MANEUVER LIKE THAT AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY ADEQUATE MONETARY SUPPORT." HE ADDED THAT HE KNEW THAT "THEY KEY IS THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, BUT THE UNITED STATES ALSO HAS A WORD TO SAY IN SUCH SITUATIONS. FOR ITS PART, ITALY IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MOBILIZE ITS INTERNAL FORCES IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS."

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION OF HOW HE THOUGHT TO CONVINCE THE AMERICANS TO HAVE FAITH IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF ITALY, HE STATED THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND "ENTIRELY ON THE REALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOVERY PROGRAM WHICH PARLIAMENT IS SUPPORTING WITH ITS ACTIONS." "CERTAINLY" HE ADDED, "IF WE WERE ALREADY TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT ON REDUCTION OF THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION, OUR ECONOMIC/ FINANCIAL CREDIBILITY WOULD BE BETTER."

4. WHEN HE WAS ASKED HOW HE WOULD PORTRAY TO THE UNITED STATES "THE SUPPORT THAT THE PCI IS GIVING TO HIS GOVERNMENT," ANDREOTTI REPLIED, "IN A DIFFICULT MOMENT, NEARLY ALL MEMBERS OF PARKIAMENT REALIZED THAT, AFTER THE JUNE ELECTIONS, FORMING A GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED; AND THE ONLY Z REALISTICALLY POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT WAS THIS ONE. IT DOES NOT SEEM TO ME THAT ANYONE IS TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION, NEITHER WE NOR OTHERS."

5. ANDREOTTI WAS ASKED WHETHER THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF SPEAKING WITH THE "NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT CARTER" REDUCED THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS MISSION, WHOM HE INTENDED TO SEE, AND WHETHER HE INTENDED TO SPEAK TO THE UN. ANDREOTTI REPLIED THAT, "CERTAINLY, TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE BEEN A POSITIVE FACTOR, BUT THE RULE OF NOT HAVING AN OVERLAP IN THE EXERCISE OF PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY IS A CORRECT ONE. TALKING WITH SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES IS ANOTHER STORY. CONTACTS WITH THEM DOES NOT RAISE CONSIDERATIONS OF IMMEDIATE POLITICAL EXIGENCIES AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ROME 19617 011825Z

PROBLEMS OF PROTOCOL".VOLPE

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